

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-12 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-15 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01

RSR-01 /132 W

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R 180156 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6043

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3529

E. O. 1 1652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR/ MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL

1. CHARGE' CALLED ON ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM A NUMBER OF MATTERS, PARTICULARLY IN DRUG RELATED AREAS. REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE LEONHARDY KIDNAPPING AND THE GOM' S EFFORT TO LOCATE THE KIDNAPPERS. THE AG SAID THAT LOCAL AND STATE OFFICIALS IN GUADALAJARA IN THEIR ZEAL TO BEAT THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES TO THE PUNCH IN THE SEARCH FOR THE CULPRITS HAD MUDDIED UP THE WATERS SOMEWHAT; NEVERTHELESS, HIS AGENTS, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THOSE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, NOW HAD POSITIVE LEADS AND FELT SURE A BREAK IN THE CASE WOULD OCCUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. WE TOUCHED ON MR. ROGERS' VISIT TO MEXICO AND THE AG CONCURRED IN THE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL EFFECTS THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE RETURN TO MEXICO OF STOLEN PRE- COLUMBIAN ARTIFACTS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE CEREMONY AT THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN WHICH HE, SECRETARY ROGERS, AND SECRETARY RABASA TOOK PART.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE WHEREBY CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING BANK ACCOUNTS HELD IN MEXICO BY KNOWN US DRUG TRAFFICKERS COULD BE EXAMINED AND POSSIBLY MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE IN INCOME TAX EVASION CHARGES, THE AG SAID HE THOUGHT SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT AND PROMISED TO EXAMINE WITH CARE A LETTER- TYPE AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH CHARGE' GAVE HIM ALONG WITH TWO SPECIFIC CASES TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE.

4. CHARGE' ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO GIVE TO AG A SITUATION REPORT ON THE ANATOMY OF THE DRUG SITUATION IN THE MEXICAN STATE OF CHIHUAHUA PREPARED BY EMBASSY'S SUB- COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE BASED ON REPORTS FROM OUR CONSUL IN CIUDAD JUAREZ AND OTHER SOURCES AVAILABLE TO US. THIS " BLIND" REPORT HAD BEEN TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH AND WAS NOT IDENTIFIED EITHER BY AUTHOR, ORIGIN, OR SOURCES OF INFORMATION. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED WITH THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION EVEN WHEN IT ALLUDED TO INVOLVEMENT OF MEXICAN POLICE AGENTS AND OTHER AUTHORITIES. SUCH INFORMATION WAS OF PARTICULAR VALUE WHEN IT COULD BE SUBSTANTIATED OR AT LEAST WHEN IT PROVIDED SOLID LEADS FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND EVENTUAL CRIMINAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION. HE SAID HE APPRECIATED OUR TECHNICAL, MATERIAL AND AGENT ASSISTANCE BUT IT WAS PRECISELY IN THE AREA OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION THAT OUR HELP WAS MOST NEEDED AND APPRECIATED.

5. CHARGE' THEN TOOK UP QUESTION OF CLOSER COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMPHETAMINES AND BARBITURATES) WHICH REPRESENT AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC AS SUCCESSES ARE ACHIEVED IN STEMMING THE PRODUCTION AND FLOW OF MARIJUANA, HEROIN, COCAINE, ETC. CHARGE' SAID WE WERE INTERESTED IN EXCHANGING VIEWS AND INFORMATION ON THE FLOW AND USE OF THESE SUBSTANCES TO HELP TO DETECT AND CURTAIL ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN THEM. WHEREAS WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC HEALTH HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR STATISTICAL CONTROL OVER THE LICIT FLOW AND USE OF THESE DRUGS, CHARGE' HAS

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ALREADY REQUESTED MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN REGARD THIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT. HE ADDED THAT WE ALSO HOPED TO SET UP MEETINGS AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESENCE IN MEXICO OF BNDD SPECIALIST IN DANGEROUS DRUG CONTROL TECHNIQUES. THE AG IMMEDIATELY AGREED TO CLOSER COOPERATION IN THIS AREA AND CALLED THE

SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO SET UP TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES THAT SECRETARIAT, OF AG'S OFFICE AND OF BNDD. AG SPOKE OF CLOSE COORDINATION HE MAINTAINS WITH MEXICAN CUSTOMS AND PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS IN ALL DRUG RELATED MATTERS AND HIS OVERALL AUTHORITY WHERE ILLICIT DRUGS OR DRUG TRAFFIC ARE INVOLVED. HE SAID THAT MEXICAN SYSTEM OF CENTRALIZED DRUG CONTROL IS WHAT USG IS MOVING TO IN ITS REORGANIZATION OF DIVERSE DRUG AGENCIES UNDER ONE ROOF.

6. IN THIS REGARD AG SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO AN EARLY MEETING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARDSON IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SAME CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AG'S OF US AND MEXICO THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED OUR JOINT DRUG EFFORT IN THE PAST. HE RECOGNIZED THAT MR. RICHARDSON WOULD BE EXTREMELY BUSY IN HIS EARLY WEEKS AND MONTHS IN HIS NEW POSITION BUT HOPED THAT HE MIGHT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HIM ON OCCASION OF THE NEXT TRIPARTITE MEETING OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF MEXICO, US AND CANADA SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON SOMETIME THIS YEAR. HE SAID THIS MEETING HAD SLIPPED FROM THE APRIL/ MAY TIME FRAME PROJECTED IN OTTAWA LAST FALL BUT EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD NOW ATTEMPT TO SET A TIME FOR THIS MEETING THAT WOULD BE CONVENIENT TO ALL THREE PARTIES. HE SAID HE WOULD WRITE A LETTER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARDSON TO OPEN THE DIALOGUE WITH HIM ON DATES FOR WASHINGTON MEETING. IN ORDER TO GET TO KNOW MR. RICHARDSON HE SAID HE WOULD HOPE TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON A LITTLE PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK WITH HIM INFORMALLY BEFORE THE TRIPARTITE MEETING.

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